

REMARKS

The present invention relates to novel methods and compositions for the treatment of HIV infection and for methods of conferring HIV resistance. The invention discloses, *inter alia*, methods of inhibiting HIV co-receptor cell surface expression using intracellular retained cytokines, *i.e.*, “intrakines,” to bind to the receptors intracellularly and prevent transport of the receptors to the cell surface. The invention further relates to inhibiting HIV-1 infection using intrakines and secreted chemokines to competitively inhibit HIV-1 from binding with a co-receptor.

Claims 1, 3-7, 14, 16-19, 23 and 38-39 are pending in the application following entry of the present Amendment. Claims 25-28, 30-32 and 35-37 have been previously canceled. Claims 8-12, 15, 20-22, 24, 29 and 33-34 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 14, 17-19, 23 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

Rejection of claims 1-24, 29 and 33-39 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-24, 29 and 33-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because in the view of the Examiner, the claims are not enabled. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the claims are broad and that the claims are not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one of skill in the art to make and/or use the invention. That is, the Examiner contends that the specification does not teach an expression vector comprising any chemokine encoding region and any chemokine receptors.

While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner’s reasoning, but rather in a good faith effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended the claims to recite various chemokines and chemokine receptors. That is, claim 1 has been amended herein to recite specific chemokines. Further, claim 17 has been amended herein to recite specific chemokine receptors. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments to the claims merely serve to incorporate the subject matter of the originally filed claims and the subject matter of the as-filed disclosure. Specifically, the alleged broad claims have been amended herein to recited specific chemokines and chemokine receptors, and as such, no new matter has been added.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that each rejection of the Examiner to the claims of the present application has been either overcome or is now inapplicable, and that each of claims 1, 3-7, 14, 16-19, 23 and 38-39 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of each of these claims are respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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Enclosures: (Request for Continued Examination and fee associated therewith; Petition for 5 month extension of time and fee therefor)